

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02117 291147Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /056 W
-----291942Z 023095 /47

R 291106Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6212
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
9 /AMEMBASSY PARIS 4894
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

S E C R E T TUNIS 2117

USCINCEUR, CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR TS SU LY
SUBJECT: TUNISIANS RESIST MORE SOVIET SHIP VISITS

REF: TUNIS 2044

1. DURING TALK MARCH 25 WITH TUNISIAN DEFENSE MINISTER
ABDALLAH FARHAT AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE
AHMED BENNOUR (AFTER REFTEL WAS SENT) I ASKED WHAT THEY
HAD TO SAY REGARDING MARCH 18 -24 VISIT BY ADMIRAL SERGEI
GORSHKOV. FARHAT SAID, FIRST, HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND HOW
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 02117 291147Z

BUSY MAN LIKE GORSHKOV COULD "AFFORD TO SPEND SO MUCH
TIME VISITING A LITTLE COUNTRY LIKE TUNISIA WHEN HE
REALLY HAD ONLY ONE THING IN MIND: MORE PORT VISITS BY
SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN FLEET".

2. I ASKED FARHAT IF MORE FREQUENT VISITS HAD BEEN
CONCEDED. HE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. GOT RESPONSE TO

GORSHKOV'S EXPECTED PITCH HAD BEEN CAREFULLY AGREED UPON IN ADVANCE. HE WAS TOLD THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWELVE SOVIET PORT VISITS SINCE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN 1974 TO RECEIVE THEM, AND AVERAGE OF ABOUT SIX PER YEAR. GOT FELT THAT WAS ABOUT THE RIGHT FREQUENCY AND WISHED TO LEAVE IT AT THAT NUMBER, GORSHKOV WAS TOLD. FARHAT ADDED ALSO THAT HE TOLD GORSHKOV HE FELT INDIVIDUAL SOVIET SHIP VISITS TENDED TO BE SOMEWHAT TOO LONG, USUALLY ABOUT TEN DAYS, WHEREAS AMERICANS AVERAGED ONLY FOUR OR FIVE, WHICH WAS ABOUT RIGHT, IN LIGHT OF INCREASING COMMERCIAL CONGESTION IN TUNISIAN PORTS.

3. FARHAT SAID SOVIET DESPERATION OVER LIMITED MEDITERRANEAN PORT VISIT FACILITIES CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR BECAUSE GORSHKOV SPOKE OF IT ON EVERY OFFICIAL OCCASION. GOT, MINISTER DAIS, SAW NO REASON TO PROVIDE GREATER HOSPITALITY THAN IT OFFERS NOW.
MULCAHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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